

**The Bay Institute of San Francisco
Save San Francisco Bay Association
Natural Resources Defense Council**

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**THERE IS NO 'ACCORD' TO BE EXTENDED:
OR, WHY CALFED IS MISSING ITS CHANCE TO BUILD CONSENSUS**

The federal and state agencies that control the future of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary are today announcing a one year "extension" of the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, which launched a long term environmental planning process for the estuary known as "CALFED." Although the California environmental community strongly supports the 1994 Accord, serious backsliding on the deal by the state and federal water projects and their customers makes extending the Accord premature until fundamental problems are solved.

"The goals of the 1994 Accord, to provide interim improvement in Delta water quality and establish a long term restoration process, remain essential," said Gary Bobker of The Bay Institute. "But in order to achieve these goals CALFED needs to honor the agreements that have been made, not reinvent them to serve water developer interests."

As is set out in the August 27, 1997 letter to CALFED from more than a dozen environmental organizations (copy available), critical questions should be addressed before the 1994 Accord is extended.

"The 1994 Accord marked a truce in California's water wars," said Barry Nelson of Save San Francisco Bay Association. "Unfortunately, in the past year, the state and Central Valley water users have attacked both the Accord and the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) on which it was built. It is a tremendous irony that this renewal of the Accord coincides with the reopening of California's water wars."

Today's announcement ignores several new threats to the Accord and the health of the

Bay-Delta estuary, including:

- Relaxation of water quality standards agreed to in the Accord in order to increase water diversions for agribusiness.
- A new effort to use federal tax dollars expressly reserved for ecosystem restoration to provide new subsidies to commercial farm operations instead.
- An effort by Governor Wilson and agricultural and urban water districts this summer to use the Accord to block desperately needed water for fish restoration in the Delta under the CVPIA. This federal water reform law is acknowledged by all sides as a cornerstone of the 1994 Accord and fundamental to Bay-Delta restoration.
- A new lawsuit by corporate farming interests in the San Joaquin Valley to block further implementation of the CVPIA.
- A proposal to authorize massive new Delta diversions, completely bypassing the CALFED process.

"The environmental community remains strongly committed to the CALFED vision of long term Bay-Delta protection, and we are actively engaged in this massive effort," said Hal Candee of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "But our ability to move forward depends on preserving existing protections for the estuary. The state and federal agencies that signed the Accord and which fund and manage CALFED must defend these existing protections. Extending the Accord without dealing with these problems only increases the risks to a successful long-term CALFED solution."

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